

On Safety, So-Called 'Accelerationism, and Imagination

Or, A Woman is Anyone Who Doesn't Identify As One



Currently, I am writing this in the aftermath of a recent decision by the Supreme Court (gross, death to law and order) etc etc, you all know what's going on, it's April of 2025 and I've had too much coffee.

Honestly, I couldn't care much less about the specific decision if I tried. We all know that the real point of this is to act as a rallying point, morale-booster, and excuse by the gender fascists to intensify their continuing efforts to deny our free lives. We all know that, really, the only girls who are heavily affected by this are the ones who are already pretty comfortable, pretty white, and pretty conforming. Now, no shade there, some of my best friends are assimilationists, after all, but more than a few of us GNC DIY anarchist post-womanhood weirdos already existing in the shadows where the state can't see us clearly are more than a bit pissed off to see people acting like the retraction of state recognition is somehow the worst thing to have happened to trans people in decades. I decided to write this piece in order to talk about all of this, and the general state of things regarding radicalism, the horizons of our imaginations, and the restrictions we place upon ourselves and others in the name of 'safety'. I hope that I might also contribute to the ongoing conversation that we all seem to be having at the moment about what we want and where we're going to go from here, so, please, feel free to come back at me about this, I will happily hear your critiques, I just also reserve the right to call you a dickhead.

First of all, there's been this thing that has pissed me off for ages about the way that a bunch of people use the word 'accelerationism' in leftist circles. It is, at best, a vulgar misunderstanding of the original meaning and intention, or, at worst, an active pressure utilised by power and those with it to discredit more radical elements within a movement or subculture. In this, it mirrors the use of accusations like 'eco-fascism' against green anarchists or the discrediting of radical faggots in the gay liberation movement in being a counter-insurgency tactic wielded by the state to sow internal division and defang threats to power. We have to be honest with ourselves at this point: the acceleration is already happening. In the words of the Invisible Committee, "The catastrophe is not coming, it is here. We are already situated within the collapse of a civilisation. It is within this reality that we must choose sides." The fascists have already started the acceleration, and it is up to us to adapt to that reality, and stop fussing about Things Getting Worse Because You're Rocking The Boat. That time has passed, the boat has been flipped, and we're all treading water now. Those who call for us to slow down, to be less radical, to be more safe, and call us 'accelerationists' (and besides, who wouldn't want to be called something as cool as a gender accelerationist, or abolitionist?) or other such things are more often than not those who have managed to scrape out some kind of accommodations from the state and fear losing them because the dirty little freaks below scared the straights. Well, they're losing that stuff anyway, now, and it's our turn to have a go. 'Trans Rights' was only ever a consolation prize, and this time we're going to come for the whole thing. Full Abolition of the Gendered Nightmare or Nothing! Total Liberation for all Living Beings, or what the fuck are we even doing this for?

My point is, I suppose, that we have found ourselves bound for a very long time now by concerns around safety, and by the fear that we might be the Bad Ones, Actually, if we take a risk. Unfortunately we have to accept that the things we want require risk, and might end up hurting a few people along the way. I am aware, of course, that there are actually some trans people who *don't* want to tear the whole thing down and build something new but, sadly, it's a bit late for that one, seeing as we're staring back at 5000 straight (haha) years of gender and only the last 50 or so have been any fun for our lot, if you were unlucky enough to get caught up in the entrails of Leviathan, as the entire biosphere is now. We can't really be the bad ones here, considering all that has happened over that time, and tearing our way out is going to get a bit messy! Additionally, the other people trapped in here with us might get a bit pissed off at us for it, and call us all sorts of names, or even worse! Safety is relative, and it is important to work to imagine all that we can win from acting dangerously and recklessly sometimes. We are in one of those rare times in the world when the horizons of possibility suddenly split wide open, and we can see everything that awaits us, and everything that we can be, like the 2C-B has suddenly hit right as the morning sun starts coming through the slatted windows of the club and everything seems bright and the room feels like a single, moving organism. I get that it's scary, but it's also the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

One of the things that I've seen coming out of the current moment is calls for "Unity" amongst trans people of various types. This is, to some degree, understandable, and I don't wholly disagree, even though I know that a significant part of the reason for these calls is in response to transfeminine people pointing out that we are specifically and more intensely targeted by the forces of Gendered Society. This makes some of the boys uncomfortable, and forces many of them to face up to their relative position compared to us in the Great Hierarchy of Gender. The vast majority of them, in my opinion, do so admirably, and genuinely love and support their sisters. This all said, fuck Unity. One of my friends once posted something on Tumblr, (which is, of course, where I get all of my best political ideas from) that simply said "Harmony > Unity", and I think it is one of the most astute statements on social movements that I have ever seen. Harmony is far important for us than unity, and also far more sustainable. This is part of what I mean about leaving each other to their own devices when it comes to doing things that may seem unsafe or inadvisable - it promotes harmony, it recognises that others will do as they wish, and it is a far more Anarchic position than that of Unity in the face of opposition. I think that we need to embrace the concept of Harmony, that we are working together in ways which may seem conflicting at times, confused at others, and occasionally in concordance, but which ultimately resolves toward the same endpoint - Total Liberation.

I'm old enough in transsexual years to remember a time before the widespread adoption and normalisation of DIY as a method of medical transition. People used to be shit-scared of it as a concept, up until even as recently as 2022! Now, it's the standard introductory method of transition I see amongst new trans people, especially trans women! In the face of an increasingly restrictive, overburdened, and uncaring medical system, people started to take the exact type of radical, unsafe action that we were warned was 'impossible to do at scale, anyway'. When we've done this, it's worked! Trans people in the UK and the US, and elsewhere, now heavily depend on a self-built DIY system that, less than a decade ago, the established 'safe' voices in the movement insisted was both overly dangerous and, moreover, impossible to build at scale. We now know that this is wrong. There are issues with how this all works, that is to be expected, even desired when it drives us to learn more! But the correct approach was not action-preventing caution. While the criticisms were valuable, and helped us to build a DIY culture that is safer than it could've been, the downright rejection did nothing but create an air of fear, as well as enforce the already-existing divide between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate/illegible' transsexuals. Many of us dared to imagine a different way of doing things, even if it was cobbled-together bricolage (more like brick-olage, am I right? Hahaha I have had 6 cups of coffee, 10mg of ritalin, and a blood test today, please kill me), and it fucking works! Why not expand this? Why not start to move entirely beyond legitimacy, legibility, and comfortable safety? The fascists are already destroying it, anyway, you've already spat in the face of the Gender Regime by becoming trans, anyway! Have some fucking fun with it, girl!

All of this is to say: we are allowing ourselves to be held back by our fear of being imaginative, of being innovative and of actually trying something new. Everything that we have tried so far hasn't worked, even constantly criticising and bitching about constant A-to-B marches hasn't stopped them trapping us in the gravitational pull of a half dozen or so dead-end 'socialist' parties, and we certainly shouldn't go down the fucking route of mass-arrest-oriented activism (if you know me irl, ask me about the historical circumstances that made that a useful tactic in the 60s don't exist anymore, I beg). To my mind, there are two things missing from how we operate currently that stops us from getting drawn into this bullshit. First of all, those of us who are burned out don't talk to the new kids! This may be some level of projection on my part, but it seems to me that a lot of those of us who have been at this for a while don't really have the time or energy (or are too traumatised) to guide people away from the same, tired old forms of activism. Secondly, There aren't any passive ways for these people to learn about these things on their own! Thankfully, I think this is already improving, as more zines are put out, more articles are published, more people heal a little more and find themselves able to speak again, but we're not quite there just yet. When I can sit in a smoking area and listen to a girl excitedly gush about the bright queer future and it feels like a cliche, I kinda know that we're going to do alright, she just needs a gentle nudge away from the same mistakes we've been making in the past. Education and conversation are, as always, the way forward. Summon the courage to chat to your friends openly and honestly about what you think good ideas are, and don't be afraid to actually challenge them if you disagree (this part is aimed as much at myself as The Girl Reading This). If you're struggling to get that courage up? Idk, get kinder friends, or maybe do another line.

**In Summary; Kill All Cops, Take More Illegal Drugs, And
Have Sex With Your Friends. Before THEY try to stop you!**

